

Where does Stormwater go?



Rainfall and Snowmelt in the Town of Spencer goes untreated into our storm water system, then directly into local streams, ponds, rivers and lakes.

As it flows, Stormwater picks up contaminants and pollutants in its path.

That's why it's important to make sure that dog waste, oil, and other pollutants do not end up in the storm drains.

For more info visit:

www.spencerma.gov/Pages/SpencerMA_Bcomm/Planning/StormwaterResources



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In compliance with the Clean Water Act NPDES Permit



STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

A homeowner's guide to keeping our water clean. What you can do to prevent Stormwater pollution.



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL STORMWATER COALITION

Why Should You Care?

Stormwater Myth:

Stormwater is cleaned at a sewage treatment plant before it flows into rivers and lakes.

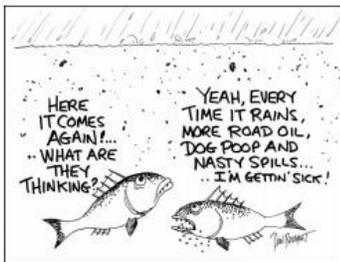
FALSE!

Stormwater systems are separate from sewer systems, and do NOT go to a treatment plant.

Stormwater picks up pollutants found on lawns, sidewalks, parking lots, and roadways. These pollutants enter our local waters. They can negatively affect our swimming areas, aquatic ecosystems, and even drinking water quality.

Certain pollutants like pet waste and some fertilizers provide excess nutrients. Too much of these nutrients turn water cloudy and green . . . imagine this in your

backyard pond or stream!



What You Can Do:

1. Only Rain Down the Drain

Storm drains dump into our environment. So, never dump any trash, oils, grass clippings, or chemicals down a storm drain.

2. Pick Up The Poo

Animal waste contain bacteria that pollute water. Always pick up after your pet using compostable bags and dispose of in the trash. Also make sure your dog does not pee onto pavement.

3. Go Natural

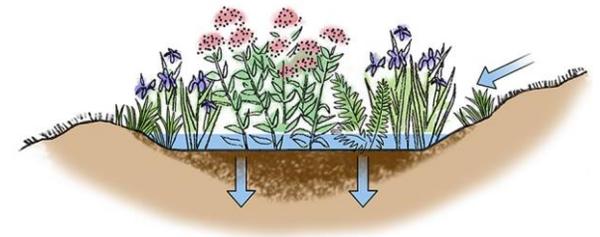
Fertilizers contain harmful phosphorous and nitrogen which wash into ecosystems when it rains. Use natural manures and compost instead!

4. Car Care

Vehicle fluids are harmful to the environment, repair any leaks and clean up any spills. Wash your car with biodegradable soap on grass or gravel to help filter soapy water.

Rain Gardens:

This is a flower garden built into a shallow depression designed to catch runoff. The plants and soil filters out pollutants. Additionally they provide habitat for birds, bees, and butterflies. They will also reduce the amount of runoff entering our streams.



Rain Barrels:

You can collect Stormwater from a roof gutter's downspout into a rain barrel. This water can be saved to water the lawn and plants in place of using tap water. This minimizes chlorine amounts entering the Stormwater system, and your water bill!

